

to said aqueous solution the crosslinking agent.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, whereby the first step of providing said mixture comprises mixing and grinding a powder of said gel molecules to be crosslinked and said crosslinking agent.

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12. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, whereby the crosslinking is induced by UV light exposure.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, whereby the crosslinking is induced by acidification.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, whereby the crosslinked ionotropic gel is formed in capsule form.

16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Newly added) A method for treating a wound, comprising applying to said wound a wound dressing comprising a gel solution comprising an aqueous solution of gel molecules to be crosslinked and a crosslinking agent comprising a carrier substance and counterions releasably bound to said carrier substance.

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18. (Newly added) A method for filling a cavity in a tooth, comprising applying to said tooth the powder composition of claim 8.

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19. (Newly added) A transplant encapsulation, comprising biological cells encapsulated in an ionotropic gel crosslinked by a crosslinking agent comprising a carrier substance and counterions releasably bound to said carrier substance.

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20. (Newly added) A food encapsulation, comprising a food ingredient encapsulated in an ionotropic gel crosslinked by a crosslinking agent comprising a carrier substance and counterions releasably bound to said carrier substance.

4244501 21. (Newly added) A cosmetic encapsulation, comprising a cosmetic ingredient encapsulated in an ionotropic gel crosslinked by a crosslinking agent comprising a carrier substance and counterions releasably bound to said carrier substance.

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